

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/901,630

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

Applicant(s)

JAIPURIA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _____.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed April 7, 2005. Claims 25-30, and 49-50 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-24, 31-48, 51-55 are pending in this case.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. The closest prior art of record shows:

(1) O'Neill et al (US 5,987,440) disclose a personal information security and exchange tool.

(2) Iida et al (US 6,766,946) disclose a system for granting permission of user's personal information to third party.

(3) Bly et al (US 5,008,853) disclose a representation of collaborative multi-use activities relative to shared structured data objects in a networked workstation environment.

(3) Boebert et al (US 5,502,766) disclose a data enclave and trusted path system.

(4) Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (WO 00/60435) discloses a system and method for accessing personal information.

(5) Open Market, Inc. (WO 98/19224) discloses controlled transfer of information in computer networks.

(6) Beyond browsing: Shared comments, SOAPS, trails, and on-line communities; Roscheisen, Martin, Mogensen, Christian, Winograd, Terry; Computer Networks & ISDN Systems, Amsterdam: Apr 1995. Vol.27, Iss. 6; pg 739.

4. Applicant's set of claims consists of claims 1-24, 31-48, 51-55.
5. Independent claim 1 is directed at a method of providing a multi-level hierarchical communicative network. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests assigning access rights to individual entities rather than all individuals entities which meet a certain criteria, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 are deemed allowable.
6. Independent claim 9 is directed at a method of providing a networking database. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests assigning access rights to individual entities rather than all individuals entities which meet a certain criteria, independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-13 are deemed allowable.
7. Independent claim 14 is directed at a method of searching a network database. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities, and only through said individual entities, searching other databases, in a tree-like structure. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests the latter feature, independent claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-24 are deemed allowable.
8. Independent claim 31 is directed at a network database system. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities, and only through said individual entities, searching other databases, in a tree-

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like structure. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests the latter feature, independent claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-35 are deemed allowable.

9. Independent claim 36 is directed at a system for providing a networking database. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities, and only through said individual entities, searching other databases, in a tree-like structure. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests the latter feature, independent claim 36 and its dependent claims 37-40 are deemed allowable.

10. Independent claim 41 is directed at a communications network. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests assigning access rights to individual entities rather than all individuals entities which meet a certain criteria, independent claim 41 and its dependent claims 42-48 are deemed allowable.

11. Independent claim 51 is directed at a method of optimizing networking capability. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities, and only through said individual entities, searching other databases, in a tree-like structure. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests the latter feature, independent claim 51 and its dependent claims 52-55 are deemed allowable.

12. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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